

SB 540 -- MICROBREWERIES

SPONSOR: Gross (Dempsey)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill limits the number of microbrewer liquor licenses held by one person, his agents, or affiliates to 10. Microbrewer licensees are further prohibited from having any financial interest in other facilities which sell intoxicating liquor by the drink, except for those microbrewery facilities for which they hold licenses.

The bill also exempts microbrewers from the provisions of the liquor control law which requires licensed retailers to purchase only from a licensed wholesaler, when pertaining to products produced on the premises. All other intoxicating liquor sold on the premises must be purchased from a wholesaler.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that when the microbrewery act was passed the provision relating to the purchase of products by retailers from wholesalers was overlooked. This allows microbrewers to legally sell their products on their premises.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Gross.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst